



ASSOCIATION OF STATE DRINKING WATER ADMINISTRATORS

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October 1, 2003

G. Tracy Mehan
Assistant Administrator
Office of Water (MC #4101M)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Mehan:

Thank you for your letter of September 16, 2003 in which you invited me to attend an October 9, 2003 stakeholders meeting in Washington, D.C. on the subject of water efficient product labeling. I regret that I am unable to attend, as the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) is holding a security workshop in Boston on the same day. However, I look forward to attending future such meetings and remain very interested in this initiative.

State drinking water program administrators believe that a voluntary program of the type being explored at the October 9 stakeholders meeting would be of considerable benefit from several perspectives. It would obviously be of direct assistance in helping to meet the needs of water poor portions of the country whose water systems come under severe pressure during periods of drought. In addition, we believe that indirect benefits would accrue such as energy savings (from treating and handling less water) and reduced capital improvement costs (by reducing the size and scope of certain infrastructure projects). We also believe that such a program should be voluntary and rely on multiple partnerships, as currently envisioned, rather than mandatory.

Thank you again for the invitation to October 9th meeting. We look forward to future opportunities to participate.

Sincerely,

James D. Taft
Executive Director

Cc: Cynthia Dougherty, OGWDW
Sheila Frace, OWM